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Title: Need to include dalit Christians in the list of Scheduled Castes.

SHRI C. RAJENDRAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): The issue of inclusion of dalit Christians in the list of 'Scheduled Castes' is being raised by the dalit Christian groups for a long time. However, the definition of SC in Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 is restricting the dalit Christians and they have been unfairly excluded from welfare measures, like reservation in educational institutions and employment in public services.

The National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities headed by Justice Ranganath Misra said that caste is a social phenomenon, shared by all the Indian communities, irrespective of their religion, and concluded that any religion-based discrimination in selecting particular castes for affirmative action will conflict with the Constitution.

Hence, I request that the said Order may be amended so as to treat dalit Christians on par with the other Scheduled Castes and they should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes annexed to the Constitution (SC) Order, 1950.